

“Why God’s Ordained Authority is so Important” Part 3 - 1 Corinthians 11:8-12 – October 4th, 2015

- Today’s teaching will be part three of a series titled, “Why God’s Ordained Authority is so Important.”
- Up to this point, the Apostle Paul has been answering the questions sent him by the Corinthian church concerning their issues.
- One such issue was that of the women not wearing a covering on their heads while in church as was the custom in the culture.

- While the cultural dynamics of a woman covering her head or hair length don’t apply to us today, the principle certainly does.
- This because, the principle of hair length and covering was seen as a symbol of respecting the authority that one was under.
- It’s for this reason we have a chapter like this in our Bibles, namely, to show us why God’s structure of authority is so important.

1. Jesus exemplified submission to the Father’s authority (Verses 1-3)

- Paul says follow my example as I follow Christ - the head of man is Christ, the head of woman is man the head of Christ is God.

2. When we disrespect authority we dishonor God (Verses 4-7)

- Here Paul contrasts men and women with their heads either covered or uncovered and why it is that it can become a dishonor.

3. Being under authority is not synonymous with inferiority (Verses 8-12)

8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

- v8-9 Paul says man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.
- v10 He then goes on to say it’s for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels.
- v11-12 He says, woman isn’t independent of man nor man independent of woman, as she came from man; he’s born of woman.

- Paul gives three examples concerning the seriousness we are to have when it comes to God’s ordered structure of authority.
- The first example has to do with the order of creation, such that, man was not created for woman, rather, woman for the man.
- The second example Paul gives has to do with the angels in heaven who are present whenever the body of Christ assembles.

- It’s this third example that is most interesting because it levels the playing field when it comes to the man coming from woman.
- In other words, man is not independent of the woman by virtue of the fact that every man had to have been born of the woman.
- As one quipped, “In the earliest part of my life I was a man trapped inside a woman’s body, then my mother gave birth to me.”

- What Paul is saying here as it relates to the man and the woman is that being under authority is not synonymous with inferiority.
- Perhaps better said, just because the woman is under the man’s authority doesn’t mean that the woman is inferior to the man.
- Both the man and the woman are dependent upon each other, which is the way God designed it to be as joint heirs with Christ.

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV) — 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Matthew Henry said it best this way, ““The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”

- This is where Christ being under the authority comes into play in the sense that God the Son was not inferior to God the Father.

Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV) — 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

John 4:34 (NKJV) — 34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

John 5:16–19 (NKJV) — 16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.” 18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. 19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

- The bottom line is this; the woman is to submit herself under the authority of the man, as Jesus has submitted to the Father.
- The reason the women in the Corinthian church were to cover their heads is because it was a sign of respect for their authority.
- I find it most interesting that in verse 10 of our text, Paul talks about the angels who are apparently watching church services.

- The question becomes one of why are the angels in heaven concerned about the women respecting the authority of the man.
- In order to answer this question, we must understand for the Corinthian women to not cover their head was an act of rebellion.
- As such, angels take this seriously because they witnessed first hand Lucifer’s rebellion against the authority of almighty God.

- I’ll bring it to a close by once again posing a question, which I also ask of myself, and it’s probably not the question you think.
- The question is this, if I knew how destructive rebelling against authority has the propensity to be, what changes would I make?